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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 10187 150808Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 STR-04 TRSE-00 /037 W
----------064281 150821Z /15
R 150730Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9856
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
/AMEMBASSY SOFIA 3559
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO

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USDOC FOR BEWT/TDAD (STECHSCHULTE)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EIND, EEWT, COMECON, UR, PO, TECH
SUBJECT: REPORTED CEMA DECISION TO CONSTRUCT CARBON BLACK PLANT
ON SOVIET/POLISH BORDER

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH TWO EXECUTIVES OF PHILLIPS PETROLEUM, WE HAVE LEARNED OF POSSIBLE DECISION TAKEN AT RECENT CEMA SESSION TO CONSTRUCT PLANT TO PRODUCE CARBON BLACK IN USSR NEAR POLISH BORDER. ACCORDING TO P.M. SORGO, DIRECTOR OF LICENSING, AND E. WIEN, SALES MANAGER OF CHEMICAL PRODUCTS, FROM PHILLIPS PETROLEUM OFFICES IN BRUSSELS, DECISION WAS TAKEN DURING MAY SESSION OF CEMA WORKING GROUP IN SOFIA. REPORTED CAPACITY OF PLANT WILL BE 200,000 METRIC TONS
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 10187 150808Z

PER YEAR -- "VERY LARGE" BY INDUSTRY STANDARDS, WHERE PLANTS OF BETWEEN 60,000 AND 100,000 TONS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE OF OPTIMUM SIZE, DEPENDING ON MARKETS AND RAW MATERIALS SOURCES.

2. PHILLIPS EXECS COULD NOT CONFIRM EXACT LOCATION OF PROPOSED PLANT NOR MEANS OF FINANCING, BUT TOLD COMATT

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

THAT THEY HAD HEARD FROM POLES THAT FUTURE EASTERN
EUROPEAN CUSTOMERS OF PLANT WERE DELIGHTED BECAUSE THEY
WOULD BE ABLE TO REDUCE PURCHASES IN WEST OF RELATIVELY SCARCE
(IN CEMA COUNTRIES) CARBON BLACK FOR THEIR RUBBER AND
TIRE INDUSTRIES AND RELY MORE ON OUTPUT OF
JOINT CEMA FACILITY FOR WHICH THEY WOULD BE SUPPLYING
BULK OF RAW FEEDSTOCK (RESIDUE FROM PETROLEUM REFINING
PROCESSES) AT RATES QUITE FAVORABLE TO THEM.

3. SORGO EXPLAINED THAT SOVIETS (AND, PRESUMABLY, OTHER
EE COUNTRIES) ARE CONTINUALLY APPROACHING PHILLIPS PETROLEUM
WITH REQUESTS TO PURCHASE CARBON BLACK, BUT FIRM HAS
THUS FAR BEEN UNABLE TO ACCOMMODATE THEIR NEEDS BECAUSE
OF SUPPLY PROBLEMS. (INCIDENTALLY, PHILLIPS EXECS WERE
IN MOSCOW TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF LICENSING
FIRM'S HI-DENSITY POLYETHYLENE AND POLYPROPYLENE
PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY TO SOVIETS. DISCUSSIONS ON THIS
PROPOSAL WERE APPARENTLY NOT VERY FAR ALONG.)

4. COMMENT: SINCE WE HAVE SEEN NO REPORTS OF CEMA
DECISION TO CONSTRUCT CARBON BLACK FACILITY IN USSR,
WE WOULD BE INTERESTED CS COMMENTS ADDRESSEE POSTS OR
DEPARTMENT MAY BE ABLE TO MAKE ON THIS ALLEGED DEVELOPMENT.
TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, CARBON, INDUSTRIAL PLANTS, MEETINGS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW10187
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770252-0336
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770753/aaaabtth.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 994ac06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1849846
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED CEMA DECISION TO CONSTRUCT CARBON BLACK PLANT ON SOVIET/POLISH BORDER
TAGS: EIND, EEWT, TECH, UR, PO, US, COMECON, PHILLIPS PETROLEUM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/994ac06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009